

# Draft BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes

EBMUD Headquarters – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Small Training Room

January 13, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

## 1) Introductions

Melody LaBella - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
Nathan Hodges – Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
Lorien Fono - BACWA  
Cheryl Munoz - SFPUC  
Anita Jain – WBA/Redwood City  
Rhodora Biagran – Dublin San Ramon Services District  
Eric Rosenblum – Enviroperspectives  
Linda Hu - EBMUD

*On Phone*

Beverly James – Novato Sanitary District  
Eric Hansen – South Bay Water Recycling/ City of San Jose  
Luis Jaimes – Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Kevin Booker – Sonoma County Water Agency  
Jane Strommer – Delta Diablo Sanitation District

## 2) BAIRWMP & Prop 84 Updates

### a. Update on BAIRWMP activities

- i. DWR review of Plan scheduled to begin in January 2014
- ii. Provide agencies a resolution template for adoption

To receive grant funding, agencies must adopt the IRWMP by May 11, 2014. The Project Screening Committee (PSC) and Program Update Team (PUT) are putting together a template that agencies can choose to use to adopt the IRWMP. This template is expected to be available shortly.

### b. Update on Prop 50 invoices/payments

Paul Gilbert-Snyder is finishing up sending out the invoices for Prop 50 projects.

### c. Update on Prop 84 activities

#### i. Round 2 update

The final award announcement for Round 2 is later this month. There will be a public workshop once the final announcement is made. There is a draft agreement for contract administration from ABAG/SFEP who will be the grant administrator for round 2. (BACWA was the administrator for Round 1). Jennifer Krebs from ABAG/SFEP has put together a draft agreement based on the agreement for Round 1. She sent out an email and hosted a workshop for awardees. Please contact Cheryl if you have not received Jennifer's email.

#### ii. Round 3

*Schedule for Request for Regional Concept Submittals, Sub-regional Concept Submittals*

The Coordinating Committee (CC) is looking ahead several months and getting organized while the DWR puts together the call for proposals for Round 3.

*Project discussion*

#### (a) BACWA nutrient-themed regional project concept

The CC put out a call for Regional Concept submittals. BACWA will submit a nutrient themed nutrient submittal. There are four elements:

- Moored sensors to monitor nutrients and phytoplankton in the SF Bay
- Sidestream treatment full scale demonstration
- Mobile process units for nutrients treatment
- Wetland restoration at the Hayward Marsh

*(b) Recycled water projects*

There are 2 potential strategies for recycled water projects: (1) Wait until the call for subregional concepts; or (2) put all recycled water projects together as a regional project. The group is considering both options. Beverly brought up that recycled water has merit for nutrients and could join the nutrients regional project. Also, this makes the overall project more multibenefit. This nexus will be part of a discussion to envision how to present recycled water.

Developing a regional project has 2 advantages: 1) It's easier to develop the projects strategically; and 2) Regional Projects may be considered first by the PSC for inclusion in the San Francisco Bay Area proposal. If the PSC turns down the proposal as a regional project can then the group can resubmit it as subregional project. Linda and Cheryl will inquire with the PSC. Beverly recommends reviewing projects that are "shovel-ready" by 2016. These should all already be in the IRWMP.

There will be a ranking process developed later this year. The group needs to go ahead and see what the recycled projects are and then come up with a total at the February 5 committee meeting. Linda suggests that everyone with a project go through the requirements in the call for Regional Project Submittals to make sure they can provide the information. Cheryl and Linda will put together a template of the required information. They will also send out information on how to get a project added into the IRWRMP prior to May 11 adoption.

There was a discussion about how to use this as a way to do truly regional planning rather than just stapling together several projects and calling them "regional".

### **3) Legislation Updates and Discussion – E. Rosenblum**

*a. Legislation*

*i. Water Bond update and discussion of SB 42*

AB1331 Water Bond – Dave Smith of WateReuse is working to ensure that there is a sizeable recycled water component in the bond. This will likely not be a 2014 bill. The dollar figure that he is advocating is \$500 million, with the argument that this would make a good impact on water supply reliability compared to the relative cost of the delta tunnels. Eric brought up that there needs to be a discussion within our community about the merits of potable/nonpotable hybrid systems.

*iii. Drinking Water Program reorganization update*

The State is moving forward with administrative changes. There is a public meeting on 1/15. There was a paper circulated by Bahman Sheikh comparing California to Florida. Florida has a single State Agency that governs potable, recycled water, and waters of the State. They use >50% of their wastewater for recycling, and their permits get adopted 3-5 times as quickly as in California. It is hoped that consolidating all these programs in California will help facilitate recycled water projects here.

*iii. US Green Building Council (GBC) legislative proposal to expand allowable uses of recycled water and conditionally mandate installation of dual plumbing*

This was first discussed as a mandatory dual plumbing regulation. The GBC wants to move forward "sustainable" buildings. Eric Rosenblum circulated some proposed text. Eric wanted to know what the committee members would want to see in these ordinances. State Water Code 13550 says use of potable water where recycled water is available is a waste and against state law. Melody thinks engaging with the GBC is generally a good idea. San Francisco already has ordinances in place for interior recycled water use and is wary of the need for the State to put in regulations. Cheryl has a concern that the GBC is not aware of ordinances that are already in place, and she sees the need to educate them. Eric Hansen reported that Assemblymember Gatto, Senator Desaulnier, and Assemblymember Rendon want to spearhead this effort. Summary – we are leery of being "helped" by the state for fear of unintended consequences, but welcome the opportunity to work with the GBC. EBMUD will participate in future meetings.

*iv. Other updates*

The governors office contacted Dave Smith asking if there were any near term administrative actions (12-16 months) to encourage the use of recycled water, in response to the drought. Ideas floated in the committee are below, and the letter to WateReuse is [posted](#).

- Not having to retrofit HOAs with costly backflow preventers on the potable service if they want to use recycled water for irrigation.

- The Governor could direct the State Water Board to stop requiring a Petition for Change form from agencies that discharge into a waterbody when there are no existing water rights holders within one mile (for example) of the discharge.
- Facilitate adding new uses or customers to an existing permit – do internal permitting vs. having DPH approval on everything
- Anita: The new 49ers Stadium in Santa Clara didn't need to do full shutdown to do testing – standardizing an internal pressure test that could be used in lieu of a full shut-down test. The 49ers initially had to perform a full shut-down test but moving forward they are required to perform a pressure differential test every four years instead of a full 2-way shut down test every four years. Eric will provide the 49ers Stadium waiver to the committee.
- Do not require producers to agree that they have to use all recycled water produced if they use SRF loans – this causes overly conservative planning.
- Melody – the issue for Central San is the water agency requiring backflow preventers for building fire service lines for site that are using recycled water only for irrigation. EBMUD wants Title 22 or 17 to be updated to say they are not needed.
- Expansion of allowable uses: Cheryl suggests residential washing machines in new developments. In general, agencies don't want to look at residential reuse because of staffing resources for administration.
- More money for small construction grants to expand distribution systems and connect customers.
- Offer tax rebate for use of recycled water in industrial/commercial applications such as cooling towers, car washes, etc.

*b. Regulations*

*i. SWRCB General Permit Workgroup*

The General Permit Workgroup has been formed but has not yet met. The Workgroup is intended to make recommendation to the State Water Board about ways that the State Recycling Landscape General Permit could be amended to be more useful to permittees. There are some more volunteers from northern California in the Workgroup than there were last meeting.

**5) Announcements/Agency Updates – All**

Linda got email from Dave Richardson of RMC who spoke with the manager of Moraga country club about continuing to explore a recycled water satellite facility concept.

Surface water augmentation for indirect potable reuse will be heard at the Jan 22 State Water Board meeting.

Salt Nutrient management plan presentations by Regional Water Board and Sonoma County next month

Industrial Water Reuse committee will hold telecon 1/22.

**6) Next Meeting – February 5, 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, 2nd Floor Small Training Room at EBMUD Headquarters**

Cheryl distributed a list of meeting dates for 2014.